

former Hendry County Commissioner Janet Taylor. Her service in this capacity, as well as many others, has had a major impact on our community.

Born in Louisiana, Ms. Taylor moved to Florida at a young age and very quickly became involved in her community. She received her Bachelor's degree in political science from Palm Beach State College. In 1978, she joined the Clewiston Police Department and became the department's first female African American officer. She quickly rose through the ranks and reached Sergeant and Field Training Officer. She dedicated twelve years to serving and protecting those in Hendry County before retiring from the force.

Ms. Taylor was appointed Hendry County Commissioner in 1994 and served in this position for twenty-two years. As Commissioner, she represented the citizens of Hendry County and the State of Florida with passion and dedication. Her impressive resume includes serving as Chairperson of the Florida Association of Counties for twelve years as well as being a member of the National Association of Black County Commissioners. Ms. Taylor's public service extends beyond her work as Commissioner for Hendry County, as she previously served as a Government Liaison for Congressman Alcee Hastings.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Taylor for her remarkable service to Hendry County. Her dedication to the betterment of our community is admirable and has touched the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

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TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"  
BALLENGER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill Ballenger of Council Bluffs, Iowa for his leadership and vision in helping organize 13 honor flights that have taken nearly 3,500 Iowa veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials that were built in their honor.

Bill and his son Jeff saw a need to honor our country's aging veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. The Ballengers have partnered with HyVee, Inc., Casey's General Stores, and others to raise more than \$3 million to fund this special endeavor. Carol Hagberg's father, the late James Snook, who was a World War II veteran said, "Dad felt so honored and privileged. We heard about the wonderful time he had over and over on the flight. He was very proud to have served his country."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Bill on his incredible efforts to organize and fund the 13 honor flights for our veterans. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bill and in wishing him nothing but the very best.

RECOGNIZING BRAIN AWARENESS  
WEEK

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brain Awareness Week, a critical moment to discuss the impact of brain disorders on our nation and the urgent need for brain research and discovery.

Neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease have tremendous, devastating impact on individuals and families. My dad had Parkinson's, so I know firsthand the physical and financial toll it takes on patients and caregivers.

These diseases also pose a serious financial burden for the nation. Today, neurological diseases cost the United States an estimated \$800 billion a year. And that figure is projected to increase dramatically over the coming years.

An estimated 5.5 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's disease. In my home state of Michigan, 180,000 people age 65 and older have Alzheimer's. That is projected to increase more than 20 percent—220,000 Michiganders—by 2025. And barring medical breakthroughs, the number of Americans age 65 and older with Alzheimer's is estimated to reach 16 million by 2050. Between now and 2050, the cumulative cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's is projected to exceed \$20 trillion.

Parkinson's disease is the second-most common neurodegenerative disorder in the United States. Each year, 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's. The current total economic burden of the disorder is estimated to be about \$14.4 billion a year in the United States. And by 2040, the prevalence of Parkinson's is expected to more than double.

Thanks to advances in brain research, we have a deeper understanding of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and researchers recently identified possible environmental and genetic risk factors for Parkinson's.

However, further research is required to unravel the complexities of these neurological disorders. Without breakthroughs, we will not be able to develop new, more effective treatments. Currently available treatments provide relief from some Parkinson's symptoms, but do not halt the progression of Parkinson's. Alzheimer's is the only disease in the top 10 causes of death in the U.S. that cannot be prevented, slowed or cured.

This Brain Awareness Week, I extend my gratitude to the great scientific minds who are advancing our understanding of brain disorders. And let's redouble our efforts to find new breakthroughs in brain research and bring a healthier future in reach for our nation.

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DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY  
FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Statewide Founders Day Celebration in Green Bay, Wisconsin. With over 700 members committed to public service, the Wisconsin chapters of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are a significant part of our community and I am proud to honor them.

For over 100 years, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has created programs and initiatives that focus on academic excellence, community service, economic development, and health and fitness, with a focus on the African-American community. "The Healthy Lifestyle Initiative—The Total Woman: Mind, Body, and Spirit" is one of the national programs led by Delta Sigma Theta that focuses on improving physical and mental health for its members and their communities. This program is just one example of how the women in the Sorority work to empower and support their communities.

From Friday, March 23, 2018 to Sunday, March 25, 2018, Green Bay, Wisconsin is proud to host the statewide Delta Sigma Theta Founders Day Celebration. This event will bring hundreds of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority members together to celebrate the organization's history and its numerous contributions since its founding on January 13, 1913.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the organization's commitment to support communities across the country and the world.

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RECOGNIZING WEBSTER, FLORIDA  
AS A PURPLE HEART CITY

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Webster, Florida as a Purple Heart City and honor the men and women who have selflessly served our country in the United States Armed Forces. It is with deep respect that I pause today to honor the brave men and women who were wounded in combat or gave their last full measure and made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

Created by General George Washington on August 7, 1782 to recognize a soldier's meritorious action, the Purple Heart is our nation's oldest decoration. Every person that serves in the United States Armed Forces makes great sacrifices for our country and our freedoms. Many have endured combat wounds as they fought for the freedoms of complete strangers, for individuals they had never met.

We owe our veterans a debt that we can never repay. For more than two centuries the United States military has protected Americans against our enemies and the enemies of our friends. Throughout this time, the valor, dignity, and courage of our men and women in uniform has remained strong. It is due to countless lives selflessly lived and lost in defense of our country that we can stand today, free and grateful.

I congratulate Mayor Carrie Davis, Mayor Pro-Tem Michael T. Foote, Commissioners Bobby Yost, Ana Vigoa, and Mike Harris, and most of all, the men and women of Webster who have served our great nation. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Webster.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF KAHU  
MELVIN KAUILA CLARK

**HON. COLLEEN HANABUSA**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary man, Melvin Kauila Clark, who passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2017. A talented artist, Native Hawaiian traditional healer, celebrated leader of the community health center movement, and a personal friend of mine, Kauila will be deeply missed by the many people whose lives he has touched.

Kauila grew up in Wahiawa on the island of Oahu and graduated from Leilehua High School in 1963. Kauila went on to earn a bachelor's degree in drawing and painting from Graceland University and a master's degree in clay and sculpture from the University of Puget Sound. He became an internationally acclaimed artist and potter, with his works exhibited in 53 countries and museums, including in the Smithsonian here in Washington. I always admired Kauila's pottery because they reflected who he was so well. His pieces were big but also delicate, reflecting both the strength of his character and the gentle kindness of his heart. Kauila's willingness to share and donate his pieces to raise money for the communities around him demonstrated his wonderful generosity of spirit.

In Hawaii, Kauila will be fondly remembered as a Native Hawaiian traditional healer who shared his wisdom with all who sought it. He rightfully believed that the diverse communities of the United States could learn much from traditional indigenous knowledge of balance and harmony. Unsurprisingly, even though Kauila was a kahuna, a "keeper of secrets," one of the select few certified to hold that title, he preferred to be called kahu, or "priest."

A passionate advocate of the community health center movement, Kauila has dedicated much of his life towards ensuring that Americans of all backgrounds across the country receive culturally competent, patient-centered health care. Kauila and I got to know each other over the course of his work on healthcare with the Waianae community, since Kauila and I were both part of the hānai family of Auntie Agnes "Aggie" Kalaniho'okaha Cope, who first founded the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Care Center. Kauila continued Auntie Aggie's work by serving as board director of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for twenty-seven years.

Kauila dedicated much of the past nineteen years to the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). Over the course of his distinguished service, he served on the Consumer/Board Member, Finance, Farmworker Health, Membership, Health Center Governance, Nominating, and Screening Committees at various points in time. Between 2005 and 2008, Kauila was treasurer for NACHC. Kauila became chair-elect of NACHC in 2009, board chair in 2011, and immediate past chair in 2015, the first Native Hawaiian to hold those positions in NACHC.

In everything he did, Kauila thought about his sons, whom he loved deeply. We used to talk about his sons and how they were growing up. I especially remember one conversa-

tion in which we chatted about how Tiger Woods's success was influencing Kauila's sons towards golf and away from football. Kauila was the grounding for his family, and it was always apparent to me that his kids came first in his heart and in everything he did.

Much can be said of the art, wisdom, and leadership that Kauila shared with the world. He will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by the people whom he encouraged, counseled, inspired, and healed. With cherished memories of Kauila in our hearts, we will continue his life's work for a better, kinder world.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th anniversary of the founding of the American Gold Star Mothers. American Gold Star Mothers dates to 1928 and was founded under the Wilson Administration by Grace Darling Seibold. In 1917, during WWI, families hung banners displaying a blue star for each loved one serving overseas and a gold star for each of those loved ones that made the ultimate sacrifice. Today, the American Gold Star Mothers organization continues to aid and comfort the families of men and women who died while serving their country.

On March 24th the Southwest Florida Gold Star Mothers Chapter will hold an event commemorating the 90th anniversary of the American Gold Star Mothers and the 2nd observance of the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. We honor those mothers and families who have lost sons and daughters in recent conflicts around the world, and thank the Southwest Florida chapter for all they do for our fallen heroes and our community.

RECOGNIZING DIABETES ALERT  
DAY

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the American Diabetes Association Alert Day. Observed annually on the fourth Tuesday in March, this is a day to inform the American public about the seriousness of Type 2 diabetes, particularly when left undiagnosed or untreated.

I would like to thank the American Diabetes Association, as well as numerous other organizations and researchers, who work to raise awareness of this far-reaching disease and seek an eventual cure.

Diabetes affects over 30 million Americans—almost 10 percent of the U.S. population—and nearly 1 in 4 adults are unaware that they have this disease. What's more, another 84 million Americans have prediabetes, a condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. 9 out of 10 adults with

prediabetes are unaware of their condition and susceptibility to developing diabetes.

Whether it is a parent, child, sibling, grandparent, or neighbor, we all know someone who struggles daily with the medical upkeep of living with diabetes. That is why I join the American Diabetes Association in strongly encouraging all Americans to take the time today to learn more about Type 2 diabetes, its wide-ranging impact upon our nation and its citizens, and the susceptibility to this disease. Testing can take only 60 seconds and results can make a lifetime of difference.

I applaud the American Diabetes Association, for raising awareness about the potentially life-threatening complications associated with diabetes, and their advocacy to promote a healthy lifestyle.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
COLONEL JAMES D. DIGNAN

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2018*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the recent retirement of Colonel James Dignan from the United States Air Force and to congratulate him on his new role as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber in Ohio. Colonel Dignan concluded his service in the Air Force working in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for force readiness.

Colonel Dignan received his commission through the Naval Aviation Cadet (NAVCAD) program at the Aviation Officer Candidate School at NAS Pensacola, Florida, and he received his "Wings of Gold" at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. He has served as an officer and pilot in the United States Navy, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve. Colonel Dignan was a command pilot with more than 6,500 hours in trainer, patrol, reconnaissance, and airlift aircraft. He has flown more than 100 hurricane penetration missions in the WC-130 and has flown combat-support missions throughout the Balkans, the Horn of Africa, and Southwest Asia. Colonel Dignan was also the commander of the 910th Airlift Wing at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Youngstown, Ohio. Under his leadership, he oversaw more than 1,300 personnel and was in charge of operations which provided support for nearly 2,000 Air Force, Navy, and Marine Reservists.

Now, Dignan will begin his new role as President and CEO of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber. He wanted to remain in Youngstown, Ohio with his wife and three daughters who also desired to stay in the Youngstown area. His new role will allow him to continue serving the Mahoning Valley region alongside the people he loves. Dignan's managerial skills along with his past association as a Chamber board member demonstrated his ability to hit the ground running. He will be an influential voice and leader within the community, and I am enthused to work with him in his new role.